



Welcome to Spark2, the Tribe weekly parsha activity sheet for Children's Service Leaders across the United Synagogue communities.

Thank you for offering to run a service. The US is very proud of the numerous Children's Services that are run every week across the UK and this would not happen without you.

Spark2 gives you an overview of the weekly parsha, a song, activity or Dvar Torah linked to the parsha or important event that week. Every children's service will be different, in terms of how many participants there are, their age range, its length and the varying abilities of the children. Please read through the document and find the activities that will best suit the needs of your group. It is advisable to read it before Shabbat in case there is some preparation that may be needed in advance.

I hope you and the children at your service will benefit from Spark2. Please be in touch if you have any queries, feedback or if I can be of any help.

With best wishes,  
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## Chukat

### Parsha Summary:

- The parsha begins with a discussion regarding the laws of the *Parah Adumah* - the Red Heifer.
- Miriam and Aron die.
- The Jewish people protest about the lack of water. This is because the well of water in the desert was a gift from God in honour of Miriam. It dried up when she died.
- God commands Moshe to bring forth water by speaking to the rock, but instead Moshe hits it. Water streams out of the rock but as a consequence Moshe is banned by God from entering Eretz Yisrael.
- Amalek attacks Israel and is defeated.
- Edom and Moav refuse to allow the Jewish people to pass through their land to enter Eretz Yisrael.
- Israel goes to battle with the people of Sihon and Og and are victorious.

## Children's Service: Tot's - Year 2

The parsha this week tells us about the death of Moshe's brother, Aaron. We are told how sad the Jewish people were when he passed away and how much they loved him and missed him. The reason for this great affection was that Aaron always tried to make peace between people. He would go out of his way to build peaceful relationships. We can learn from Aaron to be kind and friendly to people and to always try to make peace.

### **Activity 1:**

The children should sit in a circle. One child leaves the room and another is chosen to hide. Remove the chair that the hidden child was sitting on and close up the circle. When the child is hidden ask the child outside to enter the room and work out who is missing.

The children will think about who is in the group and thus promoting friendship and strengthening bonds. Link it back to Aaron (see above.)

### **Activity 2:**

Take a bag of coloured sweets and ask each child to take a few. Try not to specify how many they should take unless children are grabbing handfuls. You are aiming at roughly two to five per child. The children should hold them in their hand or put them in a cup/bowl.

When the children have finished taking the sweets explain that each colour sweet has a different category, for example, blue may be: family, green may be: school, red could be: hobbies. (You may want to prepare a poster before Shabbat with all the colours and their categories.)

Now explain to the children for each colour they have in their hand they need to say something from that category about themselves. If they are holding a blue they should explain anything they like about their family, green would be what school they attend.

After they have said their facts they can eat the sweet! Go around the circle.

This activity will also promote friendship as the children are learning more about each other. Link it to Aaron as written above.

**(Remember to check allergy guidelines!)**

**Songs:**

- *'V'Ahavta L'raiacha Kamocha'* 'Love your neighbour as yourself' – for the words and tune go to YouTube.
- 'Please don't fight!' to the tune of: *'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star'*

Please don't fight, 'cause it's not right,  
Take my hands and hold on tight.  
Best of friends we now will be,  
Won't you come and play with me?  
Please don't fight, 'cause it's not right,  
Take my hands and hold on tight.

## Children's Service: Year 3-6

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Now explain to the children for each colour they have in their hand they need to say something from that category about themselves. If they are holding a blue they should explain anything they like about their family, green would be what school they attend.

After they have said their facts they can eat the sweet! Go around the circle.

## Discuss:

- In our game we learned more about each other. Getting to know each other will strengthen our friendships. In the parsha this week we are told about the death of Aaron.
- We are told in Pirkei Avot that Aaron, 'loved peace and pursued peace.' Our rabbis tell us that if Aaron knew that a person was doing wrong he wouldn't go over to them and rebuke them and criticize them, but he would befriend them, pretending he thought they were a good person. Eventually the sinner would think to himself, "What would my friend Aaron think if he knew I was a sinner behind his back? I had better repent and stop my evil ways."

We are further told that if Aaron knew that two people were in an argument, he would go up to one of them and say that he just saw their friend weeping. This was because they miss their friend and that they are so sad that they have upset them. Aaron would then go to the other party in the argument and say the exact same story. That way when the two people in the dispute next met each other they would hug, kiss and resolve their problems.

That is why in the Torah when Aaron dies it says, 'All of Israel cried for him' whereas when Moshe dies it says 'Israel cried for him.' Aaron was loved by all and every person personally felt his loss.

## Discuss:

- Did you ever get into a fight that you didn't want to get into? How did you resolve it?
- What skills do you think you need in order to make peace?
- Do you think you should try to be like Aaron and become involved the disputes of other people in order to make peace?

## Dvar Torah

This week's parsha begins with the mitzvah of the 'Red Cow' – the *Parah Adumah*. The Gemara tells a fascinating story.....

The breastplate worn by the Kohen Gadol (High Priest) held twelve precious stones, one for each of the tribes of Israel. Once, the stone for Benjamin fell out and was lost. The sages immediately tried to find a replacement, and were told to go to a non-Jew, Damah ben Nesinah. They approached Damah and asked if he would sell them the jewel. 'Yes', he replied, and they settled on a price of 100 dinars (quite a bit of money in those days).

When he went to get the stone however, Damah found that the key to the chest containing the stone was in the hands of his father, who was fast asleep. Damah returned to the sages, and told them that although he had the jewel, he could not give it to them. They thought he had changed his mind about the price, so offered him more money, with their bid escalating to 1,000 dinars. Just then, Damah heard his father awake, so he went and brought them the stone. The sages, elated that their mission was accomplished, began to count the 1,000 dinars that had been their final offer. Damah refused. He told them. "I refuse to take more than the original 100 dinars!"

How did God repay Damah?

That night a rare occurrence happened. A *Parah Adumah* was born to Damah! The Jews came and paid him for it. They paid the cow's weight in gold which, as you can imagine, was a large sum of money. Nothing happens by chance!